

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A knife section for a reciprocating sickle bar for a harvester, said knife section comprising a base, the knife section having a leading end, mounting holes in the base for securing the knife section to a support bar, the knife section having a central plane and side edges at the base parallel to the central plane at the base, the leading end being of substantially less lateral width perpendicularly to the center plane than a width between the side edges, a pair of cutting edges, one on each side of the knife section and each cutting edge defining a cutting line that continually moves away from the center plane of the knife section from a portion adjacent the leading end to a junction of a cutting edge with a respective side edge on the respective side of the knife section.

2. The knife section of claim 1, wherein said leading end has a surface transverse to the central plane of the knife section.

3. The knife section of claim 1, wherein said side edge is substantially between 40% and 50% of the distance from a base end of the knife section to the leading end thereof.

4. The knife section of claim 1, wherein said cutting line is part of a circle.

5. The knife section of claim 1, wherein each the cutting edge is serrated, with outer serration points lying along the cutting line.

6. A knife section for a sickle having a leading end and a base with side edges, a smoothly curved concave cutting edge line extending from the leading end to a side edge without reducing the distance from the cutting edge line to a central plane of the knife section.

7. The knife section of claim 6, wherein the cutting line lies along a smoothly sharpened edge of the sickle sections.

8. The knife section of claim 6, wherein the cutting edge line lies along points of cutting edge serrations on the knife section.